

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**U.S. Appln. No. 09/368,866**

In addition, the remaining "Het" groups in the claims are now defined as "a five-membered saturated or unsaturated, including aromatic, heterocycle containing from one to four heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, wherein said heterocycle is optionally fused to a benzene ring", support being found in the application as filed at page 10, lines 6-17, as well as in the numerous examples throughout the application as filed. A new claim 87 has been added to claim certain heterocycles that are listed at page 10, lines 10-17.

Applicants have cancelled non-elected claims 81-83, reserving the right to file divisional applications on this subject matter. Applicants point out that claim 83 is directed to a distinct intermediate compound not within the scope of any of the other groups. Accordingly, claim 83 should have been grouped separately in the restriction requirement as a patentably distinct invention.

Process of preparation claims 73 to 75 have been amended to recite that the product of the claimed processes is the peptide analog compound of formula (I) according to claim 1. Since the process claims now depend from product claim 1 with respect to the product of each claimed process, Applicants respectfully submit that these process claims are entitled to be rejoined in the examination in accordance with MPEP § 821.04. Rejoinder of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 84-86 have been amended to conform with U.S. practice. Other amendments have been made to correct certain informalities and improve consistency within the claims.

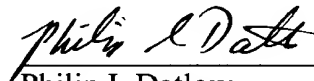
If the Examiner requires an election of a species to begin the examination, Applicants hereby elect compound no. 334 (Table 3, page 102) as the elected species.

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An examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any points remain at issue which can best be resolved by way of a telephonic or personal interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



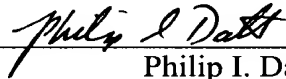
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Philip I. Datlow